



IVOIRIANS AND AMERICANS
IN PARTNERSHIP TO FIGHT HIV/AIDS

PEPFAR



News you can use
from **PEPFAR Côte d'Ivoire**

August 2016

Coordinator's Corner

Greetings and salutations

It is my pleasure as the new PEPFAR Country Coordinator since January 2016, to relaunch with this inaugural issue, PEPtalk, the newsletter for PEPFAR Côte d'Ivoire.



I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to Assistant Coordinator, Erika Venegas, who bravely served as Acting Coordinator before my arrival. Thank you, Erika, for your leadership!

I come to PEPFAR Côte d'Ivoire with nearly five years as the Deputy Coordinator in Tanzania, the third largest PEPFAR program as of FY 2016, and ten years of international development work in Sub-Saharan Africa, starting with my village days as a Peace Corps volunteer in Mali near the Ivorian border.

This pales in comparison with the decades of experience that many of you bring to the fields of HIV, global health, and international development, so I look forward to being able to expand my skill set and knowledge base through interactions not only with my colleagues but with partners and external stakeholders.

What I do bring to Côte d'Ivoire are: strong relationships with resources from across the PEPFAR implementing agencies and countries, an intimate knowledge of "how PEPFAR works", and an impeccable (some have said, fastidious) sense of organization and planning. With these strengths, I hope to lead an already outstanding team to greater successes.

There is never a dull moment in PEPFAR, and I feel that these days are especially exciting for a number of reasons.

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Ambassador Birx visits Côte d'Ivoire

The U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, Ambassador Debbie Birx, led a U.S. delegation to Côte d'Ivoire to attend the 35th Annual Global Fund Board meeting on April 26-28, 2016.

The delegation included Ambassador Jimmy Kolker, Assistant Secretary for Global Affairs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Admiral Tim Ziemer, U.S. Global Malaria Coordinator, and three other members of the Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator.

Minister of Finance Traore Adama on the national budget support for health programs and on the progress of Côte d'Ivoire toward addressing HIV and malaria.

Before they left, the delegation met with the PEPFAR country team as well as with Implementing Partners and key external stakeholders to congratulate them on their outstanding efforts and collaboration to help the country control the HIV epidemic.



From left to right: Admiral Tim Ziemer, Ambassador Debbie Birx, Minister of Health Raymonde Goudou-Coffie, Ambassador Terence McCulley, Ambassador Jimmy Kolker

During this visit, Ambassador Birx, Ambassador Kolker, and Admiral Ziemer joined other donors in the fight against HIV and AIDS in Côte d'Ivoire, in a meeting with President Alassane Ouattara to congratulate the Ivorian government on its outstanding economic growth, communicate multilateral support for the country's path toward development, and advocate for a larger contribution of the Ivorian national budget for health programming.

The delegation had fruitful discussions with the Ivorian Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan, the Minister of Health Dr. Raymonde Goudou-Coffie and the

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COP 2016 Approval by Cathy Nguyen

A regional PEPFAR meeting took place in Johannesburg, South Africa from 23-25 May 2016 for the review of the FY 2016 Country Operational Plans (COP16). By the end of two and a half mentally and emotionally grueling (!) days, Côte d'Ivoire along with South Sudan, Ethiopia, Swaziland, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Kenya, Ghana, and Angola received approval of their COP16s!

During the opening plenary of the meeting, Global AIDS Coordinator Ambassador Debbie Birx highlighted the areas of PEPFAR contribution to the recently articulated UN Sustainable Development Goals, reinforcing the synchronicity between PEPFAR and the wider, global development arena.

In the closing plenary, all the country programs presented to each other a pioneering best practice. On behalf of the Côte d'Ivoire, Dr. Abo Kouamé, Director of the PNLS, spoke about the collaboration among multiple donors to establish the system of viral load

testing in the country.

PEPFAR Côte d'Ivoire spent the time in between the plenaries providing to its review panel a summary of the FY 2016 Semi-Annual Program Results, as a progress report of COP 2015 implementation, as well as an overview of the COP16. The team also made presentations addressing in more detail the COP16 planning for: (1) innovative service delivery models, (2) viral load testing scale-up, (3) strengthening the clinical cascade for older men, (4) increased pediatric coverage, and (5) transition of the OVC program.

The review panel consisted of headquarters-based staff from the Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC) as well as from sister implementing agencies USAID, CDC, HRSA (Health Resources and Services Admin-



istration), and DOD (Department of Defense). The PEPFAR delegation was made up of management and technical staff from the PEPFAR Coordination Office, USAID and CDC, spanning the areas of prevention, community services, care and treatment, and health systems strengthening. In addition, PEPFAR Côte d'Ivoire also welcomed participation from country representatives of the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene, civil society organizations, Alliance Côte d'Ivoire, UNAIDS, and the Global Fund. Their contributions enriched the discussions initiated by the review panel.

LINKAGES Project Launch by Michelle Konin

On March 29, 2016 USAID and FHI360 launched a partnership to link HIV services for key populations affected by HIV in Côte d'Ivoire. That five year, \$8,000,000 project funded through PEPFAR is called "Linkages across the Continuum of HIV Services for Key Populations Affected by HIV" or LINKAGES.



LINKAGES is USAID's first global project dedicated to key populations. It aims at strengthening the ability of partner governments, civil society organizations (CSOs), and private sector providers to effectively provide comprehensive, high-quality HIV prevention, treatment and care services to key populations and their partners. The target key

populations for LINKAGES include sex workers, men who have sex with men, and transgender persons.

To highlight the importance of the role of CSOs, Professor Boa Yapo, Director General of Health at the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene said: "Local organizations are responsible for creating demand for HIV services among key populations."

Andrea Halverson, the out-going Health Office Director for USAID Côte d'Ivoire, said "We are now talking of controlling the epidemic through increased screening and ARV treatment, for those identified positive, of the people at highest risk".

FHI360 will work in partnership with Pact, IntraHealth International and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to deliver services across the cascade of health service delivery, from behavioral interventions to clinical services and structural interventions.

Dr. Hortense Angoran-Benie, Director of FHI360 Côte d'Ivoire at the time of the launch, thanked all the partners for their support and encourage their ownership of the project saying that their commitment will result in a shared success.

Call for Global Effort to End Pediatric AIDS excerpt from UNAIDS press center

African ministers of health called on the international community to make ending the pediatric AIDS epidemic a global political priority. Meeting in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on May 10, dignitaries called for the Political Declaration on Ending AIDS, to be agreed upon at the upcoming United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Ending AIDS, to include targets to scale up prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV services and pediatric HIV testing and treatment.

More than 150 people from 34 countries participated including 11 national ministers, as well as deputy ministers and senior HIV program officials from across Africa, which is home to nearly 90% of all children living with HIV.

In 2014, 2.6 million children were living with HIV and 32% had access to antiretroviral therapy. Without treatment, half of all children living with HIV will die before they are two years old.

"Ending pediatric AIDS requires action at two levels," said the First Lady of Côte d'Ivoire, Dominique Ouattara, UNAIDS Special Ambassador for the Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission and the Promotion of Pediatric Treatment for HIV. "On the one hand, we must prevent new HIV infections among children, and, on the other hand, we must provide treatment and care to all children who are living with HIV."

UNAIDS projects that it is possible to end the epidemic of pediatric AIDS by 2020 if prevention and treatment targets are met by 2018.

These include reaching 95% treatment coverage for both pregnant women and children living with HIV.

However, more needs to be done to ensure that no child is left behind. "Today we have effective treatment regimens, yet how many children are still dying in the age of antiretroviral therapy?" asked Jeanne Gapiya Niyonzima, president of the Burundi Association Nationale de Soutien aux Séropositifs et aux Malades du SIDA and mother of a child who died of AIDS-



related causes at 18 months of age.

The African ministers attending the Abidjan meeting called for the Political Declaration on Ending AIDS to include clear targets to scale up prevention and treatment services in order to end pediatric AIDS. To achieve these targets, the ministers endorsed the immediate front-loading of resources for pediatric HIV treatment and the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

Ministers called for UNAIDS to coordinate initiatives on pediatric HIV treatment across all sectors. "We need to strengthen cooperation

among stakeholders to get better results for children," said Juliet Kavetuna, Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services of Namibia. "If we work in silos, we will never achieve our goal."

The meeting generated considerable optimism regarding the potential to meet the 2018 targets for children. "We know what we have to do," said David Parirenyatwa, Zimbabwe's Minister of Health and Child Care. "The key is to do it in a systematic way and ensure that it is well-funded."

Uganda's Minister of State for Primary Health Care, Sarah Opendi, said, "Working together, we can end the AIDS epidemic among children, and also among adults."

Prior to the closing remarks by the First Lady of Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Sidibé was presented with the Grand Officier de l'Ordre National de la République de Côte d'Ivoire, in recognition of his global leadership on behalf of children affected by HIV. In accepting the award, Mr Sidibé encouraged all participants to work towards the goal of ending pediatric AIDS.

Leading donors, program implementers and civil society involved in pediatric HIV treatment, as well as private industry, also attended the ministerial meeting. The event was convened by UNAIDS, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, ELMA Philanthropies, Funders Concerned About AIDS, the Children's Investment Fund Foundation, Johnson & Johnson and Luxembourg.

PEPFAR Côte d'Ivoire awarded at PEPFAR Annual Meeting in Durban by Cathy Nguyen

The PEPFAR Annual Meeting took place in Durban from 16-17 July, 2016.

After opening remarks from U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, Ambassador Debbie Birx, the audience was treated to rousing calls to action from Michel Sidibé, UNAIDS Executive Director; Dr Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; and Ambassador Eric Goosby, UN Special Envoy on Tuberculosis, and former U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator.

The rest of the two-day agenda was comprised of eight plenary sessions that included presentations and panelists from PEPFAR programs across the globe, shar-

ing their experiences in technical areas spanning the continuum of HIV services.



**2016 PEPFAR Annual Award:
Best Use of Data Visualization!**

Among the ten awards presented at this annual meeting to both individuals and teams, PEPFAR Côte d'Ivoire received the

2016 PEPFAR Annual Award for Best Use of Data Visualization!



From left to right: Etien Koua; Dirk Buyse; Cathy Nguyen; Laissa Ouedraogo; James Ham

PEPFAR Côte d'Ivoire Quarter 2 Results by Erika Venegas & Etien Koua

Congratulations to PEPFAR Implementing Partners for exemplary performance in the second quarter (Q2) of FY 2016. Worth highlighting from Q2 are ART retention rates that went up to 80%, reflecting an increasing and steady trend every year. The program placed 160,561 people on treatment as of May 2016, an outstanding achievement of 96% of the annual target, up from

147,947 people in FY 2015. Despite more ambitious targets for New on Treatment (44,836 in FY 2016 compared to 38,165 in FY 2015), our semi-annual results indicate that we have already reached 50% of the target. We are confident that Implementing Partners will continue these trends in the next two quarters.

Semi-Annual (SAPR) 16 Indicators	FY15 targets	FY15 results	FY16 targets	FY16 Q1 results	FY16 Q2 results	SAPR 16 results	% Ach
HCT_TST (counseling and testing)	1,268,000	1,865,353	727,524	382,011	382,818	764,829	105%
HCT_TST_POS (positive tests)	67,800	65,245	35,297	13,817	14,215	28,032	79%
CARE_NEW (new in care)	48,870	50,678	30,211		28,925	28,925	96%
CARE_CURR (current in care)	210,000	195,755	211,910		177,815	177,815	84%
TX_NEW (new on treatment)	38,165	28,346	44,836	9,632	12,926	22,558	50%
TX_CURR (current on treatment)	143,977	147,947	166,710		160,561	160,561	96%
PMTCT_STAT (pregnant women tested)	505,100	625,921	353,527	124,981	127,496	252,477	71%
PMTCT_POS_new (new positives)	13,500	10,675	7,004	2,098	1,997	4,095	58%
PMTCT_POS_known (known positives)	5,100	6,435	5,980	1,595	1,608	3,203	54%
PMTCT_ARV (pregnant women on ARV)	17,670	16,332	12,363		7,067	7,067	57%
PMTCT_EID (children tested)		9,984	9,110	2,194	2,263	4,457	49%
PMTCT_EID_POS_2MO (children tested < 2 months)			9,110	34	53	87	45%
PMTCT_EID_POS_12MO (children tested < 12 months)			346	32	47	79	23%
TB_STAT (HIV counseling testing among TB patients)			23,521	8,571	5,191	13,762	59%
TB_ART (TB patients TB on ARV)			4,339		2,081	2,081	48%
TB_SCREEN (TB screening among patients on ARV)			169,527		157,245	157,245	93%
OVC_SERV (OVCs receiving minimum package of services)			263,556		183,611	183,611	70%
KP_PREV (Key Population receiving minimum package of prevention activities)			62,265		15,178	15,178	24%
PP_PREV (priority population receiving minimum package of prevention activities)			175,950		48,859	48,859	28%

PEPFAR Coordinator's Interview with Radio Côte d'Ivoire by Thierry Koffi Oswald

PEPFAR Coordinator in Côte d'Ivoire, Cathy Nguyen, spoke with Mr. Sylla Ahmed, Radio Journalist at RTI, on July 14, 2016 about the International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2016), held in Durban, South Africa, on July 18-22, 2016.

The conversation presented the PEPFAR Coordinator with the opportunity to convey the major objectives of PEPFAR and provide an overview of the situation of HIV and AIDS in Côte d'Ivoire. Ms. Nguyen articulated five priorities for PEPFAR for 2016 and beyond, namely: (1) meeting the bold HIV prevention and treatment targets set by President Obama in September 2015, (2) investing in adolescent girls and young women to address the structural drivers that increase their risk of HIV acquisition, (3) standing with and for key populations to address critical issues and gaps that exist for key populations in the HIV/AIDS response, (4) delivering on PEPFAR's commitment to children through increasing coverage of pediatric treatment, and (5) strengthening and investing in civil society and community leadership and capacity.

Ms. Nguyen also highlighted the achievements of the PEPFAR program globally as well as in Côte d'Ivoire. The interview ended with messages on the right to quality HIV services for all people, includ-



ing the most marginalized populations, and on the need for strong partnership with the government of Côte d'Ivoire through the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene, and other actors in the HIV response.

RTI broadcast the interview on July 18 and July 19, coinciding with the opening of the AIDS 2016 conference.

PEPFAR staff movement since January 2016:

WELCOME : From left to right

First row:

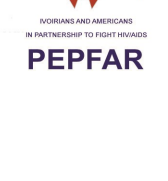
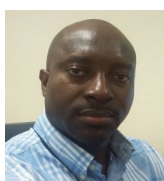
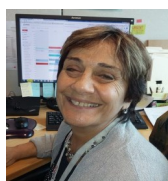
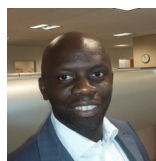
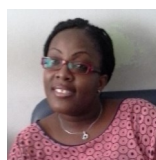
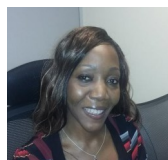
Stephen Dzisi, Deputy Director (USAID/Health); **James Ham**, Deputy Country Director (CDC); **Judith Hedje**, ADS Branch Chief (CDC); **Michelle Konin**, Health Promotion Advisor (USAID/Health); **Eulalie Bah-Levry**, Administrative Assistant, (USAID/Health)

2nd row:

Cathy Nguyen, Coordinator (PEPFAR Coordination Office); **Nancy Nolan**, Acting Director (USAID/Health); **Margarida Rodrigues**, Global Fund Liaison (PEPFAR Coordination Office); **Bruno Senou**, HMIS Advisor (USAID/Health)

3rd row:

Sereen Thaddeus, Community Team Lead (USAID/Health); **Thierry Koffi Oswald**, Media Coordinator (PEPFAR Coordination Office); **Stephane Yao-Bechio**, Administrative Assistant; (PEPFAR Coordination Office); **Kassoum Ouattara**, Data Manager (USAID/Health);



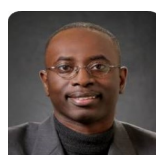
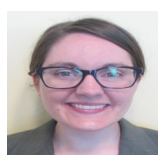
FAREWELL : From left to right :

First row:

Dr. Fazle Khan, Former Country Director (CDC), **Andrea Halverson**, Former Director (USAID/Health); **Dr. Salam Gueye**, Former ADS Branch Chief (CDC)

Second row:

Dr. Coulibaly-Traore, Djeneba, Deputy C&T Branch Chief, (CDC); **Marie Yolande Borget**, Assistant Biologist (CDC); **Silue Navoun**, Laboratory Technician



.....Continued from page 1

First, the PEPFAR Coordination Office has grown by 500%! What was once a one-woman show for more than a decade is now a much more fully (wo)manned operation complete with a Deputy, Global Fund Liaison, Media Outreach Coordinator, and dedicated Administrative Assistant.

What this means is better coordination, better communication, better support – for PEPFAR both internally and externally.

Secondly, part of that support also means increased interactions between PEPFAR Côte d'Ivoire and external stakeholders – including government counterparts as well as implementing partners and fellow technical/financial partners – to ensure not only a common understanding of the strategies and progress of PEPFAR, the major donor to the HIV response in the country, but more importantly, a common, coordinated vision of the national strategy to address HIV and AIDS. It is my priority during this tenure in Côte d'Ivoire to expand opportunities for PEPFAR to hear from you, and for you to hear from us.

Finally, the coming fiscal year 2017 – in other words, COP 2016 implementation – represents the year of results. PEPFAR Côte d'Ivoire, along with other PEPFAR programs across the world, made a commitment to help its host country government reach a milestone toward the 90-90-90 goals by achieving 80% coverage of ART in select districts in Côte d'Ivoire by the end of FY 2017. I applaud the implementing partners for your outstanding performance thus far. The U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, Ambassador Debbie Birx, recognized the PEPFAR Côte d'Ivoire program for one of the best program results for the second quarter of FY 2016. PEPFAR Côte d'Ivoire had developed an ambitious plan for COP 2015, and our implementing partners have been able to deliver.

The performance of PEPFAR Côte d'Ivoire at the end of this current implementation period will be a bellwether for the country's progress toward ending of the AIDS epidemic by 2030, and these are exciting times indeed.

Contribute to PEPtalk! We'd love to hear from you!

Do you have a news item, an interesting story idea, a good photo, insightful commentary? Share it with us: thierryok@state.gov.